(b) if not, the facts thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the annual growth rate of retail market in the country is estimated to be 30 per cent;

(d) if not, the facts thereof; and

(e) the average estimated annual share of retail market sector in the Gross Domestic Products of the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (e) No such data has been compiled at the level of Central Government. As indicated in the study report of Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) on the size of the Organised Retail Market, the Compound Average Growth Rate from 2001-02 to 2007 is projected as 18% and the estimated share of the retail market sector in India is around 10% of GDP

Fragging in the Army

*4. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently there have been a number of incidents of fragging in the Army, in as much as eight seniors, including a Major, are reported to have been shot dead by troops under their command in J&K since September, 2006;

(b) if so, the details of these incidents and the reasons underlying such killings; and

(c) the steps taken to review the needs and demands of the force, especially the personnel deployed in the counter-insurgency operations in J&K and other sensitive regions?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) There have been six incidents of fratricide since September, 2006 in Jammu & Kashmir. Two officers and nine Jawans have been killed in these incidents.

Court of Inquiry (COI) to ascertain the causes of such incidents have been ordered. Of these, in two cases, COIs have been completed and

in four incidents inquires are in progress. In one case, admonishment and perceived harassment by the superior officer and in the other case, heated argument with the colleagues have resulted in these incidents.

Various steps have been taken to contain and prevent such incidents. These include:

(i) Study by Defence Institute of Psychological Research, Delhi to identify factors, which lead to these incidents and suggest remedial measures.

(ii) Strenghten the Zilla Sainik Board (ZSB) to make them more responsive to the problems and difficulties of the soldiers and their families.

(iii) Establish a network so that the grievances of soldiers could be intimated to the concerned ZSB by the unit commander and regular monitoring by the units and the nearest army unit/ HQrs.

(iv) Impart training to Junior Commissioned Officers (JCOs) to act as counsellor in sensitive areas.

(v) Increased formal and informal interaction between senior and junior officers, improved accessibility of leaders and frequent interaction of junior leaders with soldiers, better man management and prompt attendance to grievances.

(vi) Strengthening time tested reporting and feedback system in the unit.

(vii) Liberalised leave policy to attend to domestic problems.

(viii) Identification and counselling of persons who are at higher risk of combat stress by Regimental Medical Officers, junior leaders and unit commanders.

(ix) Counselling by religious teachers.

(x) Psychological counselling by psychiatrists where required.

(xi) Training capsules in relaxation exercise including yoga/ meditation.

(xii) Rotation of units and individuals to minimize exposure to stress.

These measures are being monitored by the senior officers. All officers and other personnel in the Services have been sensitized to the above issues.